AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a scanner upper portion having an upper surface;

a light-emitting element proximate to the upper surface;

a reflective plate disposed between said upper surface and said light-emitting element, said reflective plate being configured to reflect light emitted from said light-emitting element onto a first surface;

an aperture formed at a first predetermined position on said reflective plate to decrease said reflected light on a portion of said first surface; and

a spreading plate positioned between the light-emitting element and the first surface, wherein the spreading plate includes a first group of perforations that are less densely distributed than a second group of perforations.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light-emitting element includes a lamp.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reflective plate has a generally arced shape.

5. (Currectly Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reflective plate includes a "∏ ~~H~~" shape.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the aperture includes a central portion and first and second end portions extending from the central portion, wherein the central portion is wider than the first and second end portions.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the aperture includes a generally elongated shape.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first group of perforations is located at an end portion of the spreading plate and the second group of perforations is located at a central portion of the spreading plate.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a protective plate positioned between the light emitting element and the first surface for protecting the light-emitting element.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light emitting element includes an LED array.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A scanner component, comprising:

a reflective plate including at least one aperture formed at a central portion of the reflective plate;

a light-emitting element proximate to the reflective plate;

a scanning platform, wherein the light-emitting element is between the reflective plate and the scanning platform; and

a spreading plate positioned between the light-emitting element and the scanning platform, wherein the spreading plate includes a first group of perforations that are less densely distributed than a second group of perforations.

16. (Previously Presented) The scanner component of claim 15 wherein the reflective plate is configured to be attached to an upper portion of a scanner.

17. (Previously Presented) The scanner component of claim 15 wherein the aperture does not reflect light produced by the light-emitting element.

18. (Previously Presented) The scanner component of claim 15 wherein the reflective plate includes a generally arced shape.

19. (Previously Presented) The scanner component of claim 15 wherein the aperture is a first aperture, and wherein the scanner component further comprises a second aperture formed in the reflective plate spaced apart from the first aperture.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a scanner upper portion having an upper surface opposite a lower surface;

a light source within the scanner upper portion and configured to produce light;

a reflective plate between the light source and the upper surface, wherein the reflective plate has at least one aperture formed therein and is configured to reflect at least a portion of the produced light from portions of the reflective plate not including the at least one aperture; and

a spreading plate between the light source and the lower surface, wherein the spreading plate includes a plurality of perforations having a first group of perforations less densely distributed than a second group of perforations.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the spreading plate is configured to distribute at least a portion of the produced light.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the reflective plate has a generally arced shape.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the reflective plate is generally U-shaped.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the at least one aperture is a first aperture, and wherein the reflective plate further includes a second aperture spaced apart from the first aperture.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the at least one aperture includes a center portion and first and second end portions extending from the center portion, wherein the center portion is wider than one of the first and second end portions.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the spreading plate has a generally arced shape.

27. (Previously Presented) A scanner component, comprising:

a reflective plate including a non-reflective central portion;

a light-emitting element proximate to the reflective plate;

a scanning platform proximate to the light-emitting element, wherein the light-emitting element is between the reflective plate and the scanning platform; and

a light balancing member positioned between the light-emitting element and the scanning platform, wherein the light balancing member includes a first group of perforations that are less densely distributed than a second group of perforations.

28. (Previously Presented) The scanner component of claim 27 wherein the non-reflective central portion includes an aperture in the central portion of the reflective plate.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A scanner, comprising:

a scanner upper portion having a first surface and a second surface;

means for emitting light positioned within the scanner upper portion;

means for reflecting light toward the second surface of the scanner upper portion, wherein the means for reflecting lights is positioned between the means for emitting light and the first surface of the scanner upper portion;

means for distributing light toward the second surface of the scanner upper portion, wherein the means for distributing light is positioned between the means for emitting light and the second surface of the scanner upper portion, and wherein the means for distributing light includes a first group of openings that are less densely distributed than a second group of openings.

32. (Canceled)